

Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve



The unique and beautiful landscape of Mima Mounds NAP.



A Thurston County leadership tour visits Mima Mounds last year to learn about its mysterious features.



A half-mile accessible loop trail winds through the NAP. An Eagle Scout and friends recently rebuilt the above viewing platform and access ramp.

Information

- Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve (NAP) is managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources.
- The site has special recognition as a National Natural Landmark.
- Mima Mounds NAP and neighboring mounded lands make up some of the last significant mounded prairie in Puget Sound.
- The preserve currently protects 625 acres.
- This rare grassland is home to bird and butterfly species that only use this habitat.
- Oregon white oaks are an important feature of this prairie landscape, and oak woodlands are increasingly rare.

Benefits to the local community

- 10,000 visitors per year enjoy low impact recreation- bird watchers, nature tourists, hikers are important to local economy.
- Educational field trips and projects for local schools, scout troops and organized clubs.
- Natural area is an amenity within the community, valued by neighbors.
- Research opportunities for students, geologists, and biologists.

Proposed Boundary Change to the NAP

- Imposes no land use change or zoning restrictions on landowners.
- Purchases are from willing sellers only.
- Market value is determined by an objective, third party appraisal.

What is a Natural Area Preserve?

- The preserve is part of a statewide network of protected natural areas – the best examples of natural communities, habitat for rare plants and animals, and sites for research and education.
- How people enjoy Mima Mounds NAP: walking on trails that are accessible to the disabled, elderly and children, bird watching, interpretation of mound mystery, botany, research, contemplation, picnicking at designated locations and educational field trips.